

REMARKS

Examiner Driggers-Fournet and Stodola are thanked for the courtesy extended during the Office Interview on May 28, 2009.

It is believed that the Interview Summary accurately reflects what was discussed at the Interview.

Reconsideration of the objection to Claims 5, 6, 9 and 11 is hereby requested. Claims 5, 6, 9 and 10 have been amended as suggested. Therefore, reconsideration of this objection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-5, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Ekholm et al. (U.S. 6,059,323), the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ekholm et al. ('323), in further view of Kakehi (U.S. Patent No. 5,934,680), the rejection of Claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ekholm et al. ('323), in view of Kakehi ('680), and in further view of Jacocks (U.S. Patent No. 2,202,492), the rejection of Claims 9 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ekholm et al. ('323), in view of Kakehi ('680), and in further view of Morgan (U.S. Patent No. 5,460,459), and the rejection of Claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ekholm et al. ('323) and in further view of Iida et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,443,502), is hereby requested.

As stated in the Interview Summary, "Applicant's attorney proposed amendments to claim 1 which, as presented, would overcome the Ekholm prior art reference. Proposed changes include claiming the facing flange arrangement (see Figure 1) wherein each component is in contact with the pressure medium and each flange surface contacts the gasket". Claim 1 has been amended as proposed. Therefore, Claim 1 is considered to be in condition for allowance and reconsideration of these rejections is respectfully requested.

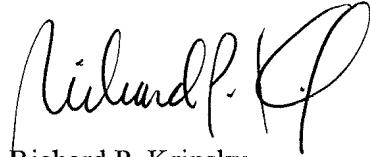
Claims 2-12 depended from Claim 1 and are considered to be in condition for allowance for at least the same reason as Claim 1 and for their own limitations as well, and such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Claims 1-12 and the Application are in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and

shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (41034/44881).

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures: Amendments to and Listing of Claims

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